

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method includes steps of originating an electronic commerce transaction at a first party, transmitting the electronic commerce transaction through a data communications network towards a second party, and during the step of transmitting, inputting the electronic commerce transaction to an electronic commerce transaction filter that is interposed (transparently) between two network components. The filter operates so as to take some action with respect to the electronic commerce transaction. The action taken with respect to the electronic commerce transaction can include an analysis of the electronic commerce transaction for the purpose of collecting information across an administrative domain and/or an analysis of the electronic commerce transaction for the purpose of enforcing a policy for an administrative domain. The action taken with respect to the electronic commerce transaction can further include, by example, one or more of performing a modification of the electronic commerce transaction, performing a redirection of the electronic commerce transaction to a third party, performing an extraction of information from the e-commerce transaction for recording the information for statistical or other purposes, performing a verification of the authenticity of all or a part of the electronic commerce transaction, performing a verification that the electronic commerce transaction is in compliance with a regulation or with some standard, terminating or delaying the electronic commerce transaction, performing an encryption of all or a part of the electronic commerce transaction, followed by sending the encrypted electronic commerce transaction to another destination, generating an alert if an analysis performed by the electronic commerce transaction filter indicates that the electronic commerce transaction may be fraudulent. Alternatively, the action taken with respect to the electronic commerce transaction can be simply passing the electronic commerce transaction through the electronic commerce transaction filter without modification and without recording any information regarding the electronic commerce transaction.